

Message Text

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ACTION INR-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2309

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13624

E.O. 11652 GDS-2

TAGS: PINR

SUBJ: BIO INFORMATION ON AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TAMMENOMS BAKKER

REF: A. STATE 188836 B. THE HAGUE 4326

1. OUR IMPRESSION OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TAMMENOMS BAKKER IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE FINE RUNDOWN IN THE HAGUE'S REFTEL B. BASED ON THE PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM, BAKKER SEEMS QUITE WARM TOWARD THE U.S. AND NEGATIVE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. HE IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF NATO. WE HAVE NOT HEARD HIM CRITICIZE U.S. POLICIES TOWARD EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CYPRUS. THE DUTCH EMBASSY HERE HAS SHOWN MORE UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. ACTIONS DURING THE OCTOBER ME CRISIS THAN ANY OTHER NATO MISSION HERE, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE BRITISH. THE DUTCH EMBASSY WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING VISA APPLICATIONS FOR SOVIET JEWS; BY ALL ACCOUNTS IT HANDLED THIS DIFFICULT JOB WITH EFFICIENCY AND DISCRETION (WHILE KEEPING THE U.S. EMBASSY FULLY ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS).

2. BAKKER APPEARS AN ABLE CAREER DIPLOMAT--WELL-TRAINED, EFFICIENT, AND A GOOD REPORTER. WHILE WE HAVE NOT SEEN HIM AS A NEGOTIATOR, WE EXPECT HE WOULD BE COMPETENT AND TOUGH. HIS PERSONALITY IS A BIT COLORLESS AND FLAT, AND SOME COLLEAGUES FIND HIM DULL. HE IS POLITE AND THOUGHTFUL, IF NOT PARTICULARLY OUTGOING WITH PEOPLE. HE MAY BE A STICKLER FOR PRO-
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TOCOL (HE IS, BY THE WAY, A METICULOUS DRESSER). HE HAS A TENDENCY TO TALK TOO MUCH, BUT HE ORGANIZES HIS THOUGHTS WELL AND SPEAKS

CLEARLY. HE LIKES CLASSICAL MUSIC, WITH A SPECIAL BENT FOR WAGNERIAN OPERAS. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH FLUENTLY.

3. MRS. BAKKER IS AN ATTRACTIVE AND VIVACIOUS WOMAN. HER ENGLISH IS PERFECT; IT MUST BE HER FIRST LANGUAGE. SHE LEARNED RUSSIAN HERE AND SEEMED TO ENJOY THE SOVIET THEATER AND RUSSIAN LITERATURE. THE OLDER TWO BAKKER DAUGHTERS ARE NAMED JACQUELINE (SHE IS THE OLDEST) AND CARLA.
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